

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945. Circumstances have not yet returned to normal and the report is not as full as pre-war, but I have endeavoured to follow official directions.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District....	33,970 acres.
Population, mid-year, Registrar General's estimate	7,026
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1945	2,115
Rateable Value	£.29,372
Product of ld. rate	£.112

There appears to be a slight decline in the population which is rather surprising. It may be that the population has not yet settled to its normal level since the national upheaval and that there are yet some numbers to return to the District. The population in 1939 was given as 7,592.

There were 152 persons in the District under Government Evacuation Schemes at the beginning of the year, but by the end of the year the number was nil.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	58	60	118
Illegitimate	7	9	16
Totals..	65	69	134

Birth Rate per 1,000 population 19.07

Still Births

Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Totals...	2	1	3

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births = 21.9  
Rate per 1,000 population .42

DEATHS

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All Causes	40	48	88

Death Rate per 1,000 population = 12.52

Puerperal Causes	0	0	0
Cancer	7	15	22
Measles	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births = 37.3  
There were 5 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, one being an illegitimate Infant.

The number of Births was 12 less than in the preceding year. The Birth Rate was slightly reduced (from 20.58 to 19.07) but compared well with that for the whole of the country at 16.1.

The Death Rate for the whole country (England and Wales) is 11.4. The Death Rate for the District, 12.52 is, therefore, rather higher. The latter exceeded the rate for the preceding year (a record low, 9.81) by 2.61. The high incidence of death due to cancer appears to have contributed largely to this position.

About one-fifth of the deaths were of persons of 75 years of age or over, 6 having reached ages varying from 83 to 93 years.

The Infantile Death Rate is again reduced and at 37.3 is for the first time lower than that for the country, which is 46, the same as the preceding year.

There were again no deaths from Diarrhoea of children under 2 years old, and again no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other maternal causes.

Apart from the general death rate the vital statistics appear satisfactory and even gratifying.

#### Principal Causes of Death.

As is usually the case Heart Disease headed the list of causes of death, the 23 cases being an increase of 9 on the preceding year.

As already mentioned there was a sharp rise in the number of deaths from Cancer, all forms, from 7 to 22. The increase in these two causes accounts for over 3 in the Death Rate as already referred to, and which is more than the increase in that Rate. Bronchitis accounted for 8 deaths and Pneumonia for 1. Intracranial Vascular Lesions amounted to 7 (against 10 the preceding year), but there was no other specified cause accounting for more than 3 deaths.

<u>Infectious Diseases.</u>	<u>No. of cases notified.</u>	<u>No. of Deaths.</u>
Dysentery	1	--
Typhoid Fever	--	--
Paratyphoid	1	--
Scarlet Fever	7	--
Whooping Cough	55	--
Diphtheria	--	--
Measles	164	--
Pneumonia	8	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	--	--
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	--
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	--
Erysipelas	2	--
<u>Tuberculosis</u>		
Pulmonary	5	2
Other forms	1	--

With reference to Diphtheria, the policy of immunising children attending school was continued. Teaching staffs have again assisted in organising sessions at school which I have attended at each school in the District to carry out the immunisation.

Private practitioners also carried out a number of immunisations in their normal practices, especially amongst children under school age.

The number of children immunised during the year were:-

<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5 - 15 years</u>	<u>Total.</u>
68	57	125

The percentage of children attending school who are now immunised varies at the different schools from 82 to 100 and averages 93 per cent.

The number of children in the District under the age of 5 years is estimated to be 746, about 47.16% of which are immunised.

The percentage is slowly increasing amongst the younger children and is quite good amongst the school children, the whole apparently having a very beneficial result.

#### SCABIES.

The facilities provided at the Pontefract Joint Hospital continue to be taken advantage of, and although there was a good batch of cases from one village there was no general increase. It is anticipated that the incidence will soon be reduced to a minimum.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Having perused the report of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ledwith, on this and other matters, which I commend to your notice, there appears to be nothing more that it is necessary for me to say.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

J. KEHELLY,

Medical Officer of Health.



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OSGOLDCROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL:

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1945.

NUISANCES.

Number of primary inspections		287
Number of cases in which nuisance found	272	
Number of cases outstanding 1944	<u>19</u>	
Cases to be dealt with		291
Abated 1945		<u>279</u>
Outstanding		12

There were no Statutory Notices served.

The number relating to defective conditions at houses was 244

HOUSING.

As a Rural Authority the Council have naturally been much concerned with Rural Housing. Cr. Leach, as Chairman of the Housing Committee was appointed a member of the County Advisory Committee, and the Clerk and myself as members of the Technical Sub-Committee of that body. One of the most useful results of the work of these committees has been the formation and adoption of a standard of fitness with which it is considered all working class houses in the County area should be required to conform. The lack of such a standard and the problem of deciding when a house was unfit, contributed to the difficulties of the administration and did not make for uniformity amongst the districts. The adoption of the standard should be of great assistance in administration and make for uniformity throughout the County.

Apart from obvious requirements relating to such matters as structural conditions dampness, air space, sanitary accommodation and water supply, the more salient points of the standard require that the site shall be free from liability to flood; the house shall be free from serious obstruction of lighting by other buildings; shall have convenient access, and if circumstances require, a second door; approaches to house doors, out-buildings and drying grounds to be suitably surfaced and drained; staircase to be safe and conveniently arranged, adequately lighted and provided with proper handrail, and not to enter any bedroom unless it is the only bedroom served; kitchen sinks are required to be provided with a draining board; adequate facilities for washing clothes, including a wash boiler and a plot of ground suitable for drying; a lighted and ventilated food store of a prescribed minimum size; a suitable store for fuel.

It is considered that there should be a separate access to every bedroom. Also that there should be a scullery in addition to a living room unless there is a second living room.

This standard provides considerable scope for action within this District. It is doubtful whether it can be attained one hundred per cent in the near future as there are cases where one or two of the requirements cannot be met and it will be doubtful whether these alone would warrant demolition. It is anticipated however, that ultimately all the houses will comply with the standard.

It is difficult to describe a typical house as there is such a variety. There are a number throughout the District which have only one living room and no scullery. New houses are still being erected with a living kitchen in which the sink and set pot are installed, but with another living room which may be furnished to provide more comfort. Such conditions may be reasonably tolerable (though housewives complain more and more of the presence of the wash boiler within the house on account of the steam penetration) but the presence of the sink and set pot in the only living room, and the many chores having to be performed in this room do not contribute to the making of a comfortable home, apart from the shape and condition of the room.

There are a few houses with a place which might make a useful scullery if a sink could be installed but where this cannot be done as it is not possible to drain from this position. Such a place is little more use than a store room and the sink has to spoil the only living room.

A fairly common unsatisfactory feature is an awkward, sometimes dangerous, stairs, in some cases opening into a bedroom which provides the only access to another bedroom.

In outlying parts of some villages and other more isolated places the inconvenience of the water supply is a matter which it is hoped will be largely overcome by means of the Council's scheme for the extension of water mains throughout the District.

#### Action under Housing Acts and Regulations.

A general survey of the District was commenced and by the end of the year 460 houses had been recorded, which were provisionally recorded as:-

Unfit	132
Seriously defective	137
Having minor defects	57
Satisfactory	<u>134</u>
	460

The figures for unfit houses include some of the houses already scheduled but not all as each case is being considered de novo for the purpose of the survey. It is anticipated that the total number will be about 220.

Owing to the position in the building trade little was done in the way of building or repairs.

One Demolition Order was made and the house was vacated.

Two seriously defective houses were repaired.

#### Action under Public Health Acts, in addition to action mentioned under "Nuisances".

Houses examined for vermin	12
Bugs found in four cases and eliminated by spraying with liquid insecticide.	4
Other cases concerned cockroaches, fleas and ants and appropriate help or advice was given.	
Houses inspected in connection with water supply, sanitary accommodation, etc.	57
Houses at which work required or undertaken.	54
Houses at which work completed	49

No Statutory Notices were served.

Two new houses were erected, in the Parish of Balne, assistance being given under Section 3 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.

The number of houses in the District at the end of the year was 2,115.

#### WATER.

There were no extensions of mains or major alterations to the water supply arrangements during the year.

Most of the piped supply of water comes from the Pontefract Corporation Waterworks and is distributed via the Rural District Council's mains to the Parishes of Beal, Brotherton, Burton Salmon, Cridling Stubbs, East Hardwick, Eggborough, Fairburn, Hensall, Hillam, Kellington, Monkfryston, Whitley and Womersley. At Fairburn some difficulty has continued and special care is required on account of inadequate pressure at times. There is at least a suggestion of the same trouble at Monkfryston. Otherwise quantities have been satisfactory. At Fairburn samples bacteriologically examined were hardly satisfactory, which was attributed to conditions at the reservoir. Measures to deal with this are in hand. Apart from this, routine samples showed the quality to be satisfactory.

Darrington is mainly supplied by a small water works within the Parish, formerly privately owned but now belonging to the Council. The water is collected from springs and pumped to a reservoir from which it is distributed by gravitation mains. An adequate supply was maintained. Routine samples submitted for bacteriological examination revealed an unsatisfactory supply from one of the contributory springs. This source



of supply was eliminated pending investigation and suitable treatment.

With this exception the quality continued satisfactory.

Houses on the Doncaster Road at East Hardwick and the houses at Wentbridge are supplied via Hemsworth Rural District Council mains from the Pontefract Corporation Waterworks. There are a few houses in various places supplied directly by the Pontefract Corporation.

Where there is no public supply the houses are supplied by wells, in some cases the water being raised by power pumps to overhead tanks and laid on to taps at single houses or groups up to 14 houses. About 16% of the houses are served by private wells with hand pumps. Some of these houses are within reasonable distance of the Council's mains but connections have not yet been made.

The quantity and quality of water available in private wells varies, in some cases, especially in Balne, Birkin and Heck, the position being very unsatisfactory. Some houses at Heck are still being supplied by means of a portable tank.

Five samples of water were submitted for chemical analysis. One from the Darrington Waterworks, was satisfactory and the others, from private wells were moderate or doubtful. For bacteriological examination 24 samples were submitted. Of these 12 were satisfactory, 1 doubtful and 11 unsatisfactory. A follow up sample of the doubtful one was satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were from the Darrington Waterworks and Fairburn reservoir.

The Council's Consulting Engineers are engaged on the preparation of a comprehensive scheme to provide mains in all villages and outlying parts, so that piped supplies can be made available in very part of the District. The question of pressure at Fairburn and Monkfryston is being taken into consideration in the scheme. Assistance under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944 is looked for to enable the scheme to be carried out.

#### SEWERAGE.

The position regarding sewerage has not altered appreciably. At Brotherton difficulty continues to be experienced in obtaining a satisfactory effluent at the disposal works. The old oil engines, for pumping the low level sewage to the settling tank, came to the end of their tether and an electric motor was installed to carry on the work until the new projected works have been constructed.

In most parishes general disposal is to dikes without adequate treatment and cannot be regarded as satisfactory. As in the case of water supplies, the Council's Consulting Engineers are now engaged on the preparation of a comprehensive scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for all parts of the District where practicable. In this respect also how far the scheme will be able to be carried out depends largely upon the assistance forthcoming under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

#### SCAVENGING.

There was no development in this service and the work was carried through normally without special incident or circumstance. In some cases conveniences have to wait for attention rather longer than is desirable but inconvenience or cause for complaint has been trifling if at all existent.

In parishes in which the Council have not undertaken the work, difficulties have continued and conditions have not been so satisfactory. The Council have had the matter under consideration and it is anticipated that the service will be extended throughout the District in the near future.

A privy at a house in Womersley and two pail closets at the Parish Hall, Kellington were converted to water closets, the Council contributing towards the cost of the latter. The two new houses erected were provided with W.Cs.

The total number of W.Cs. in the District at the end of the year was 766 and other types of closet 1346. There were about 636 dustbins in use and about 712 middins and ashpits.

As soon as labour and materials are again reasonably available it is anticipated that there will be activity regarding substitution of other types of closets by water closets.

#### SALVAGE.

The amount of waste material salvaged has dwindled considerably. This is due no doubt to some extent to the general lack of interest or concern since the end of hostilities, but lack of wanted material is also a factor. The principal items now required are paper, textiles and kitchen waste. Efforts have been made to get as much paper and cardboard as possible, but accumulations of paper, unwanted books, etc. have been pretty well combed out during the war years and there appears to be little paper now available in the villages. Efforts are still being made to secure any worth while amounts. Rag and bone men scout the District for rags and little comes in with the Council's salvage or refuse. The collection of kitchen waste in this District is not a reasonably practical proposition and has not been undertaken.

The cost of dealing with salvage did not decrease in proportion to the volume and value of material and there was a trading loss of nearly £76.

Materials sold during the year were as follows:-

	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>
Paper and Cardboard	5	14	0
Textiles (Rags and old bagging)		11	0
Bones		4	2
Tins (flattened)	1	13	0
Other iron		15	1
Rubber		12	2
Cullet (broken bottle glass)	1	18	0
Glass bottles and jars.		7 gross, 2 dozen.	

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Excepting Measles and Whooping Cough the number of cases of infectious diseases notified was very low.

Scarlet Fever at 7 cases appears to be the lowest incidence recorded for the District! Three of the cases occurred in Brotherton and one each in four other Parishes.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified. This is the first time there have been no cases to record since the area of the District was altered, and probably before the alteration. Presumably the immunisation scheme has contributed to this satisfactory position in no small measure.

Measles, with 164 cases notified, occurred in the first half of the year and affected all parishes except Stapleton, Whitley and Womersley. As it was not notifiable prior to the war it is difficult to compare with those years. In 1943 there were 193 cases notified.

Whooping Cough, also not notifiable before the war, brought 55 notifications. Most of these cases occurred in the second half of the year chiefly at Beal, Kellington, Eggborough and Whitley.

The one case of Paratyphoid Fever provided little scope for tracing the source of infection as there was no other case or development.

Tuberculosis showed a welcome decrease from 9 to 4 fresh cases notified. Two cases were of people who did not normally reside in this District and have now removed.

Disinfection was carried out at 11 houses.

#### SCABIES.

Fifty cases of scabies were treated at the Pontefract Joint Hospital under the arrangements made two or three years ago. Of these cases 32 were from Brotherton and occurred in the last 4 months of the year. The children, of whom there were 42, were dealt with by the County Council as the Education Authority, and the adults were treated at the expense of the Rural District Council.



## MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

As centralised slaughtering under the Ministry of Health control continues, there were no slaughterhouses in use as such and no licences in force in the District.

At one butcher's shop, 60 lbs. of beef was found unfit for consumption, decomposition having commenced, and was surrendered. No other unsatisfactory meat was encountered and premises generally were satisfactory.

A few tins of herrings and soup, which had been damaged, were the only other foodstuffs found unsatisfactory.

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

At the end of the year there were 86 Producers of Milk registered, 142 being registered as Wholesalers and 21 as Retailers. The remainder sell only small quantities locally or make butter; a number in fact not having sold either milk or butter, during the year.

The average number of cows on these premises during the year approximated 565, housed in 112 sheds.

Three other persons, without premises in the District were also registered as Retailers.

The number of designated milk licences continued the same, 2 Accredited Producers and one Supplementary Licence for the sale of Pasteurised milk.

Two samples of Accredited Milk were bacteriologically examined. One did not satisfy the test but a second sample, from the same source, did.

Some samples taken from non-designated milk did not satisfy the test applied to Accredited milk but served to induce an improvement in production where it had been unsatisfactory.

Visits number 145 were paid to dairy premises, when general conditions were found fairly satisfactory. Cleanliness of cows was good on the whole, one or two exceptions being rectified on request. With the turning out of cows being late in the spring and other incidental causes, limewashing of cowsheds became overdue in a number of cases, but was eventually carried out.

There has been a little improvement regarding cooling but there are still places not properly equipped. Structural alterations have also been at a standstill on account of the building trade position. There are, however, indications of a quickening interest amongst dairymen regarding improvements in methods of production and a desire to get required alterations effected as soon as possible.

Some clerical assistance in the latter part of the year enabled me to start on the housing survey. Without such help I can make but little headway. It is anticipated that my clerk will return some time during the present year from service with His Majesty's Forces.

GORDON LEDWITH,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

